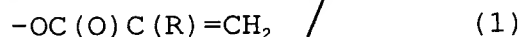


CLAIMS

1. A vinyl polymer having at least one terminal group of the general formula (1) per molecule;



wherein R represents hydrogen or an organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

10 2. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 1 wherein R is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

15 3. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein R is hydrogen or a methyl group.

4. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of~~ Claim 1 ~~to 3~~, which is a (meth)acrylic polymer.

20 5. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 4, which is an acrylic ester polymer.

25 6. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to~~ ^{claim 1} which is a styrenic polymer.

7. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to~~ ^{claim 1} which is obtainable by living radical polymerization.

30 8. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 7 wherein said living radical polymerization is atom transfer radical polymerization.

35 9. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 8 wherein the transition metal complex catalyst for said

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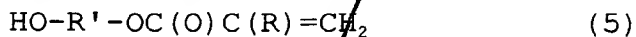
13. The vinyl polymer according to any of Claims 1 to 11, ~~claim 1~~
which is obtainable by reacting a hydroxy-terminated vinyl polymer with a compound of the general formula (4):

$$\text{XC(O)C(R)=CH}_2 \quad (4)$$

wherein R represents halogen or an organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; X represents chloro, bromo, or a hydroxyl group.

1a
SN
B3
CMB
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14. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 11~~ ¹¹ ~~claim 1~~

which is obtainable by reacting a hydroxy-terminated vinyl polymer with a diisocyanate compound and further causing the residual isocyanate group to react with a compound of the general formula (5):



wherein R represents hydrogen or an organic group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R' represents a bivalent organic group containing 2 to 20 carbon atoms.

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15. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 14~~ ¹⁴ ~~claim 1~~
wherein R is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

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16. The vinyl polymer according to Claim 15
wherein R is hydrogen or a methyl group.

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17. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 16~~ ¹⁶ ~~claim 1~~
the number average molecular weight of which is not less than 3000.

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18. The vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 17~~ ¹⁷ ~~claim 1~~
wherein the ratio of weight average molecular weight (Mw) to number average molecular weight (Mn) as determined by gel permeation chromatography [Mw/Mn] is less than 1.8.

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19. A curable composition comprising the vinyl polymer according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~ ¹⁸ ~~claim 1~~.

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20. The curable composition according to Claim 19
comprising a radical-polymerizable group-containing monomer

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29. The curable composition according to Claim 28

31. An aqueous emulsion comprising the curable composition according to ~~any of Claims 19 to 29.~~ claim 19

15 33. A pressure sensitive adhesive composition
comprising the curable composition according to any of Claims
19 to 29 or the aqueous emulsion according to Claim 31.

34. A pressure sensitive adhesive obtainable from the
20 pressure sensitive adhesive composition according to Claim 33.

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